

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification without prejudice, as follows and consider the subsequent remarks/arguments.

Please replace paragraphs 21, 29 and 30 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

Paragraph 0021

The upper portion 6 of bag 1 may constitute either a reclosable or non-reclosable opening. It is contemplated that the upper portion of the bag may be gusseted or not. Where the bag is recloseable, the reclosable means may be achieved with a plastic wrapping film, a zipper lock, resealable adhesive strips, or any number of bag-closing approaches. For example, as shown in Figure 1A and 1B, easy-snap technology 8 is used as a reclosable feature. The easy-snap technology is disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,350,057, 5,983,594, 5,944,425, 5,937,615, 5,928,749, [and] 4,679,693, and U.S. Application Serial No. 10/022,423, all to *Forman*, and is incorporated herein by reference. As described herein, the reclosable portion of the bag may be created by selectively reinforcing parts of the main bag web with sheared reinforcing strips 18 that are laminated to the main bag web, as discussed in more detail below. See, Figure 5.

Paragraph 0029

After the appropriate portions of the primary web have been reinforced, [the web is sheared, if necessary, and then] the bag is formed therefrom with, for example, a top seal, a bottom seal and a length-wise seal, as shown in Figures 1-5. Referring to Figures 2-4, the bottom of the bag 15 may be gusseted 20 to form a flat surface 22 that causes the package to stand up. The bottom seal 24 is made by first folding the sides 26 of bag 15 towards the center thereof. While the sides are being held in place, the end of the bag is sealed to form a flat, square shaped surface that causes the packaging to stand upright. Another seal 28 may be formed length-wise along one side of the package to form the sides of the pack, defining the interior volume of the bag. More detail on a flat-bottomed stand up package may be found in related Provisional Application Serial No. 60/410,149, filed September 12, 2002, entitled "FLAT-BOTTOMED RECLOSABLE PACKAGE WITH GUSSETS", which is incorporated herein by reference.

Paragraph 0030

The top of the bag may be sealed in a manner consistent with existing vertical form fill and seal technology (VFFS) and horizontal form fill and seal technology (HFFS). For example, in an VFFS environment, a flat, full-length seal across the width of the top of the bag is made. [Since there are no gussets in the top seal, the] The addition of a reclosable feature is possible where the bag material is reinforced. The reclosable feature of the

present invention may be achieved with any conventional re-closing mechanism, such as a zipper, zipper-slider seal, easy-snap technology, or adhesive strips.